

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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March

2021

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3-11-2021

### Daily Eastern News: March 11, 2021

Eastern Illinois University

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## RESOLUTION APPROVED

Eastern's Student Senate passed a resolution supporting the creation of a food pantry in their meeting Wednesday.

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## OVC UPDATE

The baseball teams of the OVC are getting ready to open conference season this weekend.

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# THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Thursday, March 11, 2021

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 105 | NO. 111

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

EST. 1915

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## Soccer training



Kyle Ignalaga, a senior CIT major, practices soccer in Lantz on Wednesday evening. Ignalaga said that he was doing individual soccer training and it was first time practicing soccer in on of the Lantz practice rooms.

KARINA DELGADO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

## CAA to vote on 5 program changes

By Corryn Brock  
News Editor | @DEN\_News

The Council on Academic affairs will be discussing and voting on five program changes during its meeting Thursday at 2 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually.

Three of the program changes revolve around special education programs.

The first of the programs to be voted on is the Special Education Early Childhood Education. The council will be voting on the deletion of several parts of the program.

Language Acquisition will be removed from the professional course work if the item is approved. Advanced Composition, Fitness Concepts for Teachers, Basic CPR and Health Concepts for teachers would also be removed.

Part of what the item is requesting is the deletion of a footnote saying:

"(Basic CPR) may be waived with current CPR card. A minimum of three semester hours of PUBH/KSR 3000 required.

Selection to Teacher Education programs should occur following the freshman year but no later than the end of the sophomore year (for transfer students this should occur no later than the end of their first semester.

University Approval to Take Teacher Education Courses should occur at the end of the first semester junior year with Formal University Admission to Teacher Education occurring at the end of the junior year. See the Teacher Licensure Program section of this catalog for more information."

The Special Education Non-licensure program item is seeking to delete all of the same courses but will only delete a portion of the program's requirements that says Basic CPR may be waived with a current CPR card and that a minimum of three semester hours of PUBH/KSR 3000 is required.

The Special Education Standard Program item seeks to delete the same course as the other two special education programs that will be voted on. It will also delete a section of the footnote that says:

"(Basic CPR) may be waived with current CPR card. A minimum of three semester hours of PUBH/KSR 3000 required... Selection to Teacher Education programs should occur following the freshman year but no later than the end of the sophomore year (for transfer students this should occur no later than the end of their first semester.

University Approval to Take Teacher Education Courses should occur at the end of the first semester junior year with Formal University Admission to Teacher Education occurring at the end of the junior year. See the Teacher Licensure Program section of this catalog for more information."

Program revisions for the accounting major will also be voted on.

If approved the item would remove Governmental Accounting from the required electives course list and the addition Financial Data Analysis and Technical Communications to the required electives course list.

## Nominations being accepted for Distinguished Senior Awards

By John Wills  
Staff Reporter | @DEN\_news

Eastern's Alumni Services is now accepting nominations for the 2021 Distinguished Senior Awards, an award granted to small select group of individuals who have promoted the "enrichment of the community" on campus, according to a recent release from the Eastern newsletter.

The award has been granted to 25 notable seniors each year for the past two decades. In order to qualify, you must be a senior student, graduating in Spring, Summer, or Fall 2021, who has earned at least a 3.0 GPA and has demonstrated some significant contribution to campus life.

The honor is notable in that it could be awarded to any senior who shows interest and is not limited to a small group of people in a certain department or category, as some awards are.

Last year's Distinguished Senior recipients varied greatly in background: the list of last years' seniors includes majors ranging from kinesiology to political and English, as well as hometowns across the map from Toledo, Ohio, to Woodland Hills, California.

The Alumni Services board is a non-profit volunteer organization made up of Eastern alum that contribute significantly to the university. Alongside these volunteers there is a group of University staff members that work with the

"I just hope students know that there's nothing too small to put in their application."

-Amber May, Assistant Director for Eastern's Alumni Services

volunteer board in transferring information and making communication smoother between the two entities.

Amber May is an assistant director for Eastern's Alumni Services and was the one to officially announce the opening of nominations for the award in the Eastern newsletter last week. She is also the main connection between the Scholarship Committee on the volunteer board and the University.

"I'm the liaison to the board, so I send the information over to them, and then the committee makes the decision on the final 25," May said.

May explained that while significant contributions to the community as a whole are required, it is also necessary to make a strong case to the committee about your eligibility through your application. Students may complete any variety of volunteer work or club and organization involvement, most notably in groups like Student Senate or the executive board of some RSOs, but this is not to suggest that more involvement equals a better chance. A student

with less direct experience who can effectively argue their case for eligibility is likely to receive the award alongside someone who has simply done a lot to support the community.

"I just hope students know that there's nothing too small to put in their application," May said. "It can be something you've done in Charleston, outside of Charleston, back at home in your 4 years at Eastern... anything, as long as it's made wherever you are a better place."

As is the case with most ceremonies, the award's recognition ceremony has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The fate of the ceremony, and its overall capacity, are currently uncertain.

"Pre-COVID, we had a small award ceremony for the 25, and they would be recognized at commencement," May said.

Applications for the 2021 award are due on April 8.

John Wills can be reached at 581-2812 or at [jmwills@eiu.edu](mailto:jmwills@eiu.edu).



## Local weather

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



Storms  
High: 62°  
Low: 41°

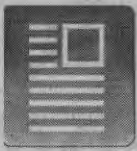


Mostly Cloudy  
High: 58°  
Low: 41°

## THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

The Daily Eastern News  
1802 Buzzard Hall  
Eastern Illinois University  
Charleston, IL 61920  
217-581-2812  
217-581-2923 (fax)



## News Staff

Editor-in-Chief  
Adam Tumino  
DENeic@gmail.com

## News Editor

Coryn Brock  
dennewsdesk@gmail.com

## Associate News Editor

Elizabeth Taylor  
dennewsdesk@gmail.com

## Photo Editor

Karina Delgado  
DENphotodesk@gmail.com

## Assistant Photo Editor

Zach Berger  
DENphotodesk@gmail.com

## Advertising Staff

Faculty Advisers  
Editorial Adviser  
Lola Burnham

## Photo Adviser

Brian Poulter

## Website Adviser

Brian Poulter

## Publisher

Lola Burnham

## Business Manager

Betsy Jewell

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Tom Roberts

## Night Staff for this issue

Adam Tumino

## Night Chief

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## About

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Contact any of the above staff members if you believe your information is relevant.

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## Employment

If you would like to work for The Daily Eastern News as a reporter, photographer, columnist, cartoonist, copy editor, designer or videographer, please visit at the newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.



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## STATE AND NATION

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Congress OKs \$1.9T virus relief bill in win for Biden, Dems

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Congress riven along party lines approved the landmark \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill Wednesday, as President Joe Biden and Democrats claimed a major triumph on legislation marshaling the government's spending might against twin pandemic and economic crises that have upended a nation.

The House gave final congressional approval to the sweeping package by a near party line 220-211 vote precisely seven weeks after Biden entered the White House and four days after the Senate passed the bill. Republicans in both chambers opposed the legislation unanimously, characterizing it as bloated, crammed with liberal policies and heedless of signs the crises are easing.

"Help is here," Biden tweeted moments after the roll call, which ended with applause from Democratic lawmakers. Biden said he'd sign the measure Friday.

Most noticeable to many Americans are provisions providing up to \$1,400 direct payments this year to most people and extending \$300 weekly emergency unemployment benefits into early September. But the legislation goes far beyond that.

The measure addresses Democrats' campaign promises and Biden's top initial priority of easing a one-two punch that first hit the country a year ago. Since then, many Americans have been relegated to hermit-like lifestyles in their homes to avoid a disease that's killed over 525,000 people — about the population of Wichita, Kansas — and plunged the economy to its deepest depths since the Great Depression.

"Today we have a decision

to make of tremendous consequence," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., "a decision that will make a difference for millions of Americans, saving lives and livelihoods."

For Biden and Democrats, the bill is essentially a canvas on which they've painted their core beliefs — that government programs can be a benefit, not a bane, to millions of people and that spending huge sums on such efforts can be a cure, not a curse. The measure so closely tracks Democrats' priorities that several rank it with the top achievements of their careers, and despite their slender congressional majorities there was never real suspense over its fate.

They were also empowered by three dynamics: their unfettered control of the White House and Congress, polls showing robust support for Biden's approach and a moment when most voters care little that the national debt is soaring toward a stratospheric \$22 trillion. Neither party seems much troubled by surging red ink, either, except when the other is using it to finance its priorities, be they Democratic spending or GOP tax cuts.

Republicans noted that they've overwhelmingly supported five previous relief bills that Congress has approved since the pandemic struck a year ago, when divided government under then-President Donald Trump forced the parties to negotiate. They said this one solely reflected Democratic goals by setting aside money for family planning programs and federal workers who take leave to cope with COVID-19 and failing to require that shuttered schools accepting aid reopen their doors.

## As GOP makes it harder to vote, few Republicans dissent

ATLANTA (AP) — In Arizona, a Republican state senator worried aloud that his party's proposed voter identification requirements might be too "cumbersome." But he voted for the bill anyway.

In Iowa, the state's Republican elections chief put out a carefully worded statement that didn't say whether he backs his own party's legislation making it more difficult to vote early.

And in Georgia, Republican Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan left the room as Senate Republicans approved a bill to block early voting for all but the GOP's most reliable voting bloc. Duncan instead watched Monday's proceedings from a television in his office to protest.

This is what amounts to dissent as Republican lawmakers push a wave of legislation through statehouses across the nation to make voting more difficult. The bills are fueled by former President Donald Trump's false claims of widespread voter fraud and many are sponsored by his most loyal allies. But support for the effort is much broader than

just Trump's hard-right base, and objections from GOP policymakers are so quiet they can be easy to miss.

"It's appalling what's happening," said former Republican National Committee chairman Michael Steele, who condemned the silence of the GOP's elected officials. "There have been no provable, obvious, systemwide failures or fraud that would require the kind of 'legislative remedies' that Republican legislatures are embarking on. What the hell are you so afraid of? Black people voting?"

Experts note that most changes up for debate would disproportionately affect voters of color, younger people and the poor — all groups that historically vote for Democrats. But Republicans are also pushing restrictions with the potential to place new burdens on GOP-leaning groups.

It's a startling shift for a party whose voters in some states, such as Florida and Arizona, had embraced absentee and mail voting. Several Republican strategists note the party may be passing laws that only box out their own voters.

## Security camera hack exposes hospitals, workplaces, schools

Hackers aiming to call attention to the dangers of mass surveillance say they were able to peer into hospitals, schools, factories, jails and corporate offices after they broke into the systems of a security-camera startup.

That California startup, Verkada, said Wednesday it is investigating the scope of the breach, first reported by Bloomberg News, and has notified law enforcement and its customers.

Swiss hacker Tillie Kottmann, a member of the group that calls itself APT-69420 Arson Cats, described it in an online chat with The Associated Press as a small collective of "primarily queer hackers, not backed by any

nations or capital but instead backed by the desire for fun, being gay and a better world."

They were able to gain access to a Verkada "super" administrator account using valid credentials found online, Kottmann said. Verkada said in a statement that it has since disabled all internal administrator accounts to prevent any unauthorized access.

But for two days, the hackers said, they were able to peer unhindered into live feeds from potentially tens of thousands of cameras, including many that were watching sensitive locations such as hospitals and schools.

## UN calls for reversal of Myanmar coup

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council unanimously called for a reversal of the military coup in Myanmar on Wednesday, strongly condemning the violence against peaceful protesters and calling for "utmost restraint" by the military.

A presidential statement approved by all 15 council members including Myanmar's neighbor and friend China was formally adopted at a very brief virtual meeting where U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the current council president, announced that the statement had been agreed.

A presidential statement is a step below a resolution but becomes part of the official record of the U.N.'s most powerful body.

The British-drafted statement calls for the immediate release of government leaders including State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint who have been detained since their ouster in the Feb. 1 military coup.

It supports the country's democratic transition and "stresses the need to uphold democratic institutions and processes, refrain from violence, fully respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and uphold the rule of law."

China's U.N. Ambassador Zhang Jun said in a statement that "it is important the council members speak in one voice," and declared that it's now time for de-escalation, diplomacy and dialogue.

Thomas-Greenfield also stressed that all council members "spoke with one voice to condemn the ongoing violence against peaceful protesters."

"We commend their courage and determination in the face of continued, brutal attacks by military and security forces," she said in a statement. "The United States will continue to work with a broad coalition of international partners to promote accountability for the coup and those responsible for violence, and will work to re-

store the democratically-elected government."

The coup reversed years of slow progress toward democracy in Myanmar, which for five decades had languished under strict military rule that led to international isolation and sanctions. As the generals loosened their grip, culminating in Suu Kyi's rise to power after 2015 elections, the international community responded by lifting most sanctions and pouring investment into the country.

Lawmakers from Suu Kyi's party, which won 82 percent of the vote in November elections, were about to take their seats in parliament when the coup took place on Feb. 1. Its leaders claimed electoral fraud, allegations the electoral commission had rejected.

Britain's U.N. Ambassador Barbara Woodward said the United Kingdom proposed the statement in light of "the deteriorating situation" in Myanmar "to send a unified message from the Security Council" to build on its Feb.

4 press statement. It strongly backed a return to democracy and called for the immediate release of Suu Kyi and all those arbitrarily detained by the military.

Opposition to the coup is being spearheaded by young people who lived in freedom for 10 years, and it has wide support throughout the country from civil servants, railway workers who were targeted Wednesday, Buddhist monks, and people of all classes and ages.

Security forces have responded with mass arrests and at times lethal force. At least 60 protesters have been killed since the military takeover, according to the independent Assistance Association for Political Prisoners. Authorities have also moved to shut down independent reporting, both through arrests of journalists and the closure of media outlets — but the protests have continued despite the crackdowns and increasingly violent tactics of security forces.



STATE AND NATION

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Journalist acquitted in Iowa case seen as attack on press

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — An Iowa jury on Wednesday acquitted a journalist who was pepper-sprayed and arrested by police while covering a protest, in a case that critics have derided as an attack on press freedoms and an abuse of prosecutorial discretion.

After deliberating for less than two hours, the jury found Des Moines Register reporter Andrea Sahouri and her ex-boyfriend Spenser Robnett not guilty on misdemeanor charges of failure to disperse and interference with official acts.

The Des Moines verdict is an embarrassing outcome for the office of Polk County Attorney John Sarcone, which pursued the charges despite widespread condemnation from advocates for a free press and human rights.

Those advocates, ranging from Sahouri's bosses at the Register to Amnesty International, argued that Sahouri was wrongly arrested while doing her job covering racial injustice protests in Des Moines last May.

More than 100 groups called for the dismissal of charges last summer, but prosecutors aggressively pursued them, arguing that Sa-

houri and Robnett didn't comply with police orders to leave the chaotic scene outside of a mall and interfered with the officer who arrested Sahouri.

Sahouri, 25, immediately identified herself as a reporter on assignment but was subjected to what she called "extremely painful" pepper spray blasts and jailed. Robnett, 24, said he was sprayed and handcuffed after telling the officer that Sahouri was a Register journalist.

Sahouri was the first working U.S. journalist to face a criminal trial since 2018, according to the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker. Although more than 125 U.S. journalists were arrested or detained last year, the vast majority were not charged or had their charges dismissed.

Sahouri told reporters she was relieved by the quick acquittal, which she called a victory for press freedom and democracy. She said the case had taken a toll on her personally and professionally, but that she would continue reporting the news.

"I have been dealing with a lot of pressure and anxiety and trauma from the assault and continuing to do my job has been difficult," she said. "But it is important. That is

why I am in this field."

If convicted on either count, Sahouri and Robnett would have faced hundreds of dollars in fines and up to 30 days in jail.

The Register's parent company, Gannett, funded their defense, and employees of the newspaper chain rallied behind Sahouri on social media. Columbia Journalism School, where Sahouri earned a master's degree in 2019 before joining the Register, also expressed solidarity by promoting the hashtag #JournalismIsNotACrime.

Journalists celebrated the verdict, saying it supports their freedom to document newsworthy events. But they said it was disgraceful that authorities pressed forward with the charges for nine months at taxpayer expense.

"Grateful justice was done and @andreamsahouri was fully exonerated," Gannett news president and USA Today Publisher Maribel Wadsworth tweeted. "But it should never have come to this. She was assaulted, arrested, charged and tried for doing her job. Today's victory is as much a victory for the 1st Amendment as it is for Andrea."

Prosecutor Bradley Kinkade told

jurors during his closing argument that it didn't matter Sahouri was a working journalist, saying her profession wasn't a defense against the charges. In fact, he argued that the video and photos she reported live on Twitter of protesters breaking store windows and throwing rocks was "convincing evidence" that she was near an unlawful assembly.

Kinkade, an assistant Polk County attorney, argued that Sahouri and Robnett were within hearing distance when police gave orders to disperse, but that they stayed with the crowd. He said they didn't have to actually hear or understand the orders, which were given nearly 90 minutes before their arrests as police tried to unblock an intersection. The orders were barely audible on video played for jurors.

Kinkade urged jurors to accept the testimony of arresting officer Luke Wilson, who claimed that Robnett tried to pull Sahouri out of his custody and that Sahouri briefly resisted arrest. Wilson acknowledged that he had failed to record the arrest on his body camera and did not try to recover the video later, in violation of Des Moines Police Department policy.

# US reports surge of kids at SW border

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of migrant children and families seeking to cross the U.S. southwest border has surged to levels not seen since before the pandemic, a challenge for President Joe Biden as he works to undo the restrictive immigration policies of his predecessor.

Statistics released Wednesday by U.S. Customs and Border Protection showed the number of children and families increased by more than 100% between January and February. Kids crossing by themselves rose 60% to more than 9,400, forcing the government to look for new places to hold them temporarily.

The surge has been seized on by Republicans and former President Donald Trump as a line of attack on Biden, though his administration is turning back nearly all single adults, who make up the majority of border-crossers, under a public health order imposed at the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Biden administration is temporarily holding children and families, mostly from Central America, for several days. They are generally then allowed to enter the U.S. while authorities evaluate their claims to asylum or see if they have any other legal right to stay in the country.

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ALL IN

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FALL 2020 DEAN'S LIST

Sidney M Abrams

Jennifer R Adams

Hallie D Allen

Sarah A Allen

Bryce J Anderson

Maria G Angel

Divine Grace M Araneta

Morgan E Atchison

Riley M Baker

Ashley M Bartley

Brianna M Bartosz

Mia K Billings

Abigail K Blatz

Adrian M Brinkerhoff

Kate N Bushue

Jalen N Cardinal

Abriana L Chenet

Sabrina K Chu

Isabella G Cox

Phoebe S Croston

Michaela T Danyo

Amanda M Davis

Mary D Deck

Dalton J Donaldson

Shawn J Drone

Mary Kate E Drufke

Jenna M Durham

Emily D Edmondson

Kendall R Elliott

Lauren K Ellis

Abigail A Elston

Hannah R Elzy

Jacinda J Floyd

Steven E Franco

Abbygail L Gangloff

Emily P Gharst

Peyton E Gill

Paulette F Gillam

Ashley N Gilmore

Debyn R Gritzmacher

Jenna L Grzeskowiak

Brenna G Hanson

Kelsie E Hannigan

Danielle M Having

Annabelle L Heddell

Cody J Hollensbe

Jason S House

Aysha C Hutson

Tatyana N Hyde

Shawna M Jameson

Jason J Jennerjohn

Thorin C Johnson

Vanessa J Jones

Joseph T Keigher

Sylvia Kendera

Nicole J Kiedysz

Alyssa M Kington

Alison M Kirk

Hannah R Kissel

Anthony W Lacy

Abigail A Lee

Morgan N Litwiller

Sarah A Lohman

Daniel B Luoma

Sean M Lynch

Elly M Magnuson

Abigail K Mann

Jaime A Marcos

Sofia A Martin

Monique S Mays

Jacob P McCombe

Alexandria E Meyer

Elizabeth G Meyer

Abigail L Moore

Marysa M Morrow

Esperanza Murillo

Carson P Myers

Jaselyn C Nacke

Niondina M Nystroem

Curtis S Ochs

William D Orth

Aislinn Parish

Jeremiah C Patterson

Kirk L Pinkston

Madeline R Pittman

Jenna K Platzbecker

Breana D Poke

Robert C Prescott

Wesley A Quimby

Lindsey D Rahn

Gabrielle K Riggs

Ambrosia E Roberts

Marvena T Rockett

Kinsey L Romack

Matthew W Schimbke

Bailey R Schumacher

Paige A Schumann

Corbin T Schwable

Jayla A Schwarzlose

Michelle R Shaffer

Kristine Shee

Munir O Sherali

Emily A Siegle

Shelby P Siltman

Abigail E Smith

Kilee A Smith

Caleb B Smothers

Grace E Snider

Hailey J Snyder

Rylan K Spangler

Hannah N Spillane

Joshua P St Preux

Brittany N Steven

Jayci N Stewart

Mya W Stidham

Erin T Stille

Kassandra J Stock

Trenise C Stokes

Chad S Strickland

James P Tackett

David R Thompson

Alexandra Tinajero Alvarez

Benjamin T Tresslar

Macarthur R VanOudt

Allison R Voyles

Andrew M Walega

Emily S Watson

Jacob B Watson

Carrie L Wennerdahl

Carson A White

Ashtyn B Wilhelm

Ashley M Wilson

Kaylie A Wilson

Megan D Winchester

Madison E Zuber

Erin E Zurek

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



## STAFF EDITORIAL

Journalist's  
acquittal  
important,  
necessary

Des Moines Register reporter Andrea Sahouri was acquitted by an Iowa jury Tuesday after being arrested covering protests in Des Moines in May.

She was not the only reporter arrested covering protests over the summer, but she was the only one to actually go to trial.

Sahouri was the first U.S. journalist to face a criminal trial since 2018, and she was there simply for doing her job.

We at The Daily Eastern News think that it is vital that journalists be allowed to cover things like protests of racial injustice and other similar things without being violently arrested.

Sahouri was pepper sprayed despite identifying herself as a reporter. Her boyfriend at the time was also present, and was telling police that she was a reporter.

She should never have been arrested and any charges should have been promptly dropped.

Although her arrest was troubling, her acquittal is a very important thing that.

A free press is needed all over the world, and journalists should never be punished for simply trying to cover something that is happening.

Hopefully those who pursued charges against Sahouri, chiefly Polk County Attorney John Sarcone, will face repercussions.

He should have known better, and hopefully other people will do the right thing when put in his position.

## Quote of the Day:

**"Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall behind you."**

Walt Disney

The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of The Daily Eastern News.

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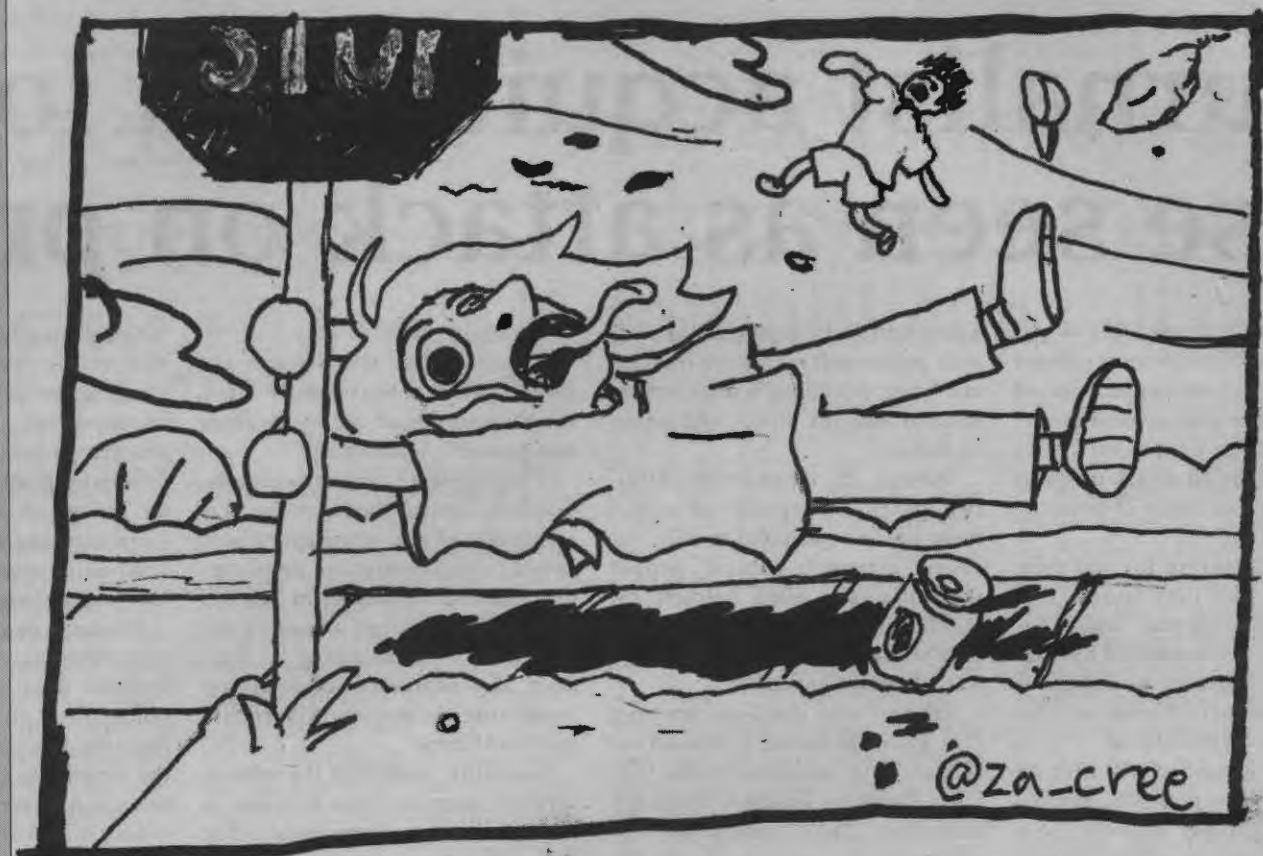
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BY ZACH BERGER

## It is easy to get stressed this semester

If there's anything us college students can agree on it's that college is very stressful, with every semester bringing new challenges.

With how COVID has affected how we learn here at Eastern, this is probably one of the most challenging school years to go through as a college student.

For me, I can't seem to focus on work anymore, because I feel exhausted all the time. It's so easy to ignore my laptop and watch back-to-back episodes of "Gilmore Girls" or take a nap or scroll through Twitter instead.

Every week starts with "I just have to get through this week" and every week ends with "next week I'll be more productive."

And I'm not the only one going through this.

My friends, both here at Eastern and at other universities, have expressed how especially stressful this school year has been.

Assignments, jobs, caring for family, extracurricular activities, the pandemic. We all have so many responsibilities and concerns that get too overwhelming, especially going through all that without any breaks.



**Kyara Morales-Rodriguez**

EIU giving us personal wellness days instead of an actual spring break was a horrible idea.

I understand that they did it to limit COVID spreading, but the more time passes, the more I realize what a crappy decision that was. It has taken such a toll on everyone's mental health.

College students need a real break. Not a random weekday.

Those personal wellness days are useless when students spend the day catching up or working on assignments for the next day.

They are useless when many of us take online classes now anyway. It doesn't feel like a break from the classroom if the classroom is my laptop and my desk.

They are useless when students will definitely still find a way to have their spring break trips.

I'll be honest: I'm not sure if having spring break would have been a better option. More than anything, I want people to stay safe from COVID, and I'm worried what spring break would have caused.

But I can't deny how much it sucks to work for months straight with absolutely no break.

I didn't want to have a spring break so I could party it up in Florida. Why would I even want to go to Florida?

I wanted to have a spring break so I could finally feel like I can breathe again after a long and stressful semester, and I'm angry EIU took that away from us.

*Kyara Morales-Rodriguez is a junior English major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or knmoralesrodriguez@eiu.edu.*

## 'Coming 2 America' an interesting sequel

I recently watched "Coming 2 America," the long-awaited sequel to the 1988 film "Coming to America."

Both films, directed by Craig Brewer, are comedies surrounding Eddie Murphy's character Akeem, who in the first movie is the prince of the fictional nation Zamunda and in the second inherits his father King Jaffe Joffer's throne, played by James Earl Jones.

The first movie follows Akeem and his assistant Semmi, played by Arsenio Hall, adventure to Queens, New York, so Akeem can find a wife that makes him happy as an equal, rather than a wife that spends her whole life preparing for an arranged marriage with the prince. He finds one in Lisa, the daughter of a fast-food entrepreneur.

The first movie has its funny moments and happy endings, but ends in such a way that I was left wondering what the sequel could expand upon. A few minutes in, though, and I was surprised at how the plot developed into the 21st century and introduced new characters.

Jermaine Fowler plays Akeem's son Lavelle Junson, and his character is one of the most



**Ryan Meyer**

entertaining in the movie. He goes from selling tickets outside Madison Square Garden to learning how to be a prince in Zamunda, and I thought the culture shock that would come with such a scenario was displayed accurately.

There are multiple callbacks to the first movie hidden in the dialogue or the background, and some are funny, like the modern New York City taxi driver offering an apology and advice to download the Lyft app rather than cussing him out like a driver did in the first movie.

Where the theme in the first movie was likely to marry the one you love or to break tra-

ditions, there are many possible themes in the second, and none are a clear choice for the most obvious. Gentrification is mentioned when Akeem and Semmi arrive in Queens to find Lavelle, and there is a conflict with Akeem's daughter Meeka, who was set to be queen before the discovery of Lavelle.

This theme shines through when the song "I'm A King," by Bobby Sessions and Megan Thee Stallion, plays over a montage of Lavelle and Meeka training, with Megan Thee Stallion's parts playing over Meeka's scenes. One lyric in particular, "Run my bath water, run a kingdom, run it smarter/ And leave a legacy for my future granddaughters" seems to address Meeka's conflict of traditional gender roles directly.

There seems to be criticism surrounding the film for its use of stereotypes of both Africans and Black Americans, and I recommend reading the bbc.com article "Is Hollywood ready to stop stereotyping Africa" for more on this.

*Ryan Meyer is a sophomore journalism major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or rameyer@eiu.edu.*

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# Student Senate passes resolution Wednesday

By Helena Edwards

Student Government Reporter | @DEN\_News

Student Senate passed Senate Resolution 20-21-01, a Resolution of Support for the Big Blue Food Pantry with a unanimous vote of 15 senators.

The goal of the resolution was to assist in providing an easier access of food resources to Eastern students and show support towards the making and implementation of the Big Blue Food Pantry on campus by Beth Gillespie and Crystal Brown.

The support by Student Senate will be through opinion only and not through financial support.

Co-author of the resolution Student Body Vice President of Student Affairs Skylar Coffey said, "The reason I wanted to coauthor this as I mentioned I feel like this

not only provides more food for students but volunteer opportunities. You can never have too many food pantries."

She also said, "If we're sending all our students to the Charleston pantry it's taking away from their sources, so more sources is better in my opinion."

Student Body Senator Seth Yeakel added in agreement, "Adding more resources is a great way to giving back to students and helping them be educated."

Leading the discussion on the proposed housing and dining rate increase, Yeakel was also first to comment with information gathered from students on campus.

Students expressed confusion on what additional benefits they would receive from this increase, especially those that live in housing but are not members of on-

campus staff who do not benefit from the budget increase reasons related to minimum wage increases. They have concerns of paying more for the same thing.

Additional reasons for the increase were gathered from students from Bond Revenue who previously analyzed student satisfaction surveys and among top priorities was better wi-fi, especially due to the nature of importance of online classes becoming so relevant.

"The top thing that was on their list was the ongoing investment in wifi and internet connectivity," said Mark Hudson, director of housing and dining services.

This is specifically to help the Lawson building's wifi and internet connectivity.

Another issue raised was by Senator Cassandra Amaya on a lack of awareness of this proposed

increase among the student body. Many she talked to had no idea this was going on.

Senator Natalie Mitlyng asked if the difference is covered during the next school year will the rates return back to what they were originally.

"The probability of it coming down is not likely. It is driven on enrollment and occupancy and is all about trying to break even with costs," Hudson said.

Graduate Advisor Shawn Hamers asked Hudson about the money loss due to giving out single rooms this semester and if there has been any help from the state to make up for this loss.

Hudson said that there is action to ask the state for support in terms of this but are awaiting more information.

This topic of discussion will

now move on to University President David Glassman's cabinet and the Board of Trustees.

Speaker of the Senate elections will not be held for the Spring 2021 semester due to there only being 5 meetings left of the semester and the Speaker elections are a two-week process.

Justin Richards will remain the interim speaker for the rest of the semester.

There is still potential for Speaker elections to be held the last two meetings so that the one elected can be the speaker for fall of the 2021 semester.

April 21 is projected to be the last Student Senate meeting.

The next Student Senate meeting will be held March 17.

Helena Edwards can be reached at 581-2812 or heedwards@eiu.edu.

## » CAA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The proposal said the change is being requested because:

"The single biggest request that employers make of graduating accounting students is more exposure and ability using Excel and other accounting technologies. By changing ACC 3950 to a requirement, we will better serve and prepare our graduates for the business world."

"The changes the AICPA is making to the CPA exam include technology adeptness with questions

focusing on the usage of MS Excel and other programs. Including ACC 3950 as a required course would better serve the students' preparation for these new elements of the CPA exam."

"AACSB accounting accreditation has a standard requiring exposure and usage of technology related to the accounting profession. The current major course structure only facilitates this objective if the students apply themselves to take ACC 3950 as an elective or other technology courses. By changing ACC 3950 to a required course, the discipline better meets the criteria of the

AACSB accounting standard."

The proposed changes also seeks a change in the Accounting Program's mission statement to reflect the current name of the Lumpkin College of Business and Technology.

The item also proposes a change in the program policies to add language that reflects the current restrictions on the Certified Public Accountant exam. The item would add "Students in their final semester of courses, that would qualify them for the 150-hour requirement, may receive Provisional Approval to sit for the CPA exam from the Illi-

nois Board of Examiners. Students are encouraged to verify educational eligibility with the Illinois Board of Examiners" to the end of the program policies.

The Construction Management Program will be the last item to be voted on at the meeting. The council is requested to approve the item so the program can reflect changes in the Mathematics Department, provide minor edits in the catalog and reflect that the FIN 3770 course is no longer a part of the Business Administration minor.

Under the major electives it currently says: "Two electives must be

taken as part of the program. If selected properly, three electives can result in a Business Administration Minor."

The item asks that the section say: Three electives must be taken as part of the program. At least one course must have the CMG prefix from the list below. If selected properly, additional electives can result in a Business Administration Minor.

The next CAA meeting will be March 18.

Coryn Brock can be reached at 581-2812 or at cebrock@eiu.edu.

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# Working on a Wednesday



BRYCE HERRIN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS  
Brianna Gaston, a senior elementary education major, works Wednesday afternoon at Gregg Technology Center. Gaston says that she "checks out cameras to photography classes and helps students with computer problems like figuring out the WIFI."

— Quiz —

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## AP SPORTS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Kansas AD Long resigns after Les Miles debacle

Kansas athletic director Jeff Long resigned Wednesday, less than two days after the school mutually parted with Les Miles amid sexual misconduct allegations dating to the football coach's time at LSU and one day after Long vowed he would lead the Jayhawks' search for a replacement.

Kurt Watson will serve as the interim athletic director as the school searches for both an AD and football coach.

"We will immediately begin our search for a new athletics director. I will lead the process with the assistance of a search firm and four alumni advisors, each of whom have experience in collegiate athletics," Kansas Chancellor Douglas Girod said in a statement. "My hope is to have a new athletics director in place within the next few weeks."

Girod said the new athletic director will take control of the football coaching search.

"I understand time is of the essence and that our football student-athletes are eager to know who will be guiding them," he said. "But we are making long-term decisions on an athletics director and a football coach, and we cannot sacrifice the quality of a search simply for expediency. While there will be a lot of speculation regarding potential candidates for both searches, I urge Jayhawks to have faith in the process and in those who are devoting their time to assist."

Long's dismissal came a day after he vowed to lead the search for Miles' successor, a move that drew significant backlash from Kansas alumni. It was

Long who had hired Miles, his friend of more than 30 years, despite questions that ultimately led to his firing in disgrace Monday night.

The move also comes as the Jayhawks' storied men's basketball program, which is awaiting the decision of an independent arbitrator on what could be severe NCAA sanctions for rules violations, prepares to open the Big 12 Tournament on Thursday with the NCAA Tournament on tap next week.

"I leave KU with a heavy heart and profound confidence that I have always acted in the best interests of Kansas Athletics," Long said in a statement Wednesday night. "I have done everything in my control to move Kansas Athletics forward in a positive manner; that's what makes this most difficult."

# 'Healthy' Prescott signs richest contract in Cowboys history

Dak Prescott walked briskly and bounced up the couple of steps onto the stage for the announcement of the richest contract in the storied history of the Dallas Cowboys for their latest star quarterback.

It was five months almost to the day Wednesday since the gruesome ankle injury that ended Prescott's 2020 season and led to immediate questions whether the big payday would ever come after a long stalemate.

The answer came two days earlier when the sides — two years after they started talking — agreed on a \$160 million, four-year contract with the NFL's second-highest annual average behind Kansas City star Patrick Mahomes.

Now Prescott is ready to answer the questions about coming back from the compound fracture and dislocation of his right ankle against the New York Giants on Oct. 11.

"I thought about jogging out here and jumping up on the stage," said Prescott, who broke into a wild smile while crossing the stage at team headquarters in Frisco, north of Dallas. "But I don't know if you all are ready for that. But I'm healthy."

Prescott wouldn't put a timeline on when he would be fully cleared,

but said, "I'll be ready when it matters."

For now, Prescott was basking in the hourlong news conference that served as a celebration of the fourth \$100 million contract in club history. The first was quarterback Tony Romo, whose back injury in the 2016 preseason opened the door for Prescott to be the starter from the first game of his rookie year.

Prescott's contract included NFL records with a \$66 million signing bonus and a first-year value of \$75 million. There is a no-trade clause, and the Cowboys can't use the franchise tag after the contract. This agreement came a day before a deadline for the Cowboys to place the tag on Prescott for a second consecutive season.

Most importantly for the Cowboys as they try to end a 25-year run without even reaching the NFC championship game, Prescott's salary cap hit will be \$22.2 million instead of \$37.7 million under the tag. Dallas needs help on defense and now has some money to spend.

"I feel great about our future," owner Jerry Jones said. "I don't mind telling you the main reason I feel great is the guy sitting right next door to me."

# MLB's Rangers in line to be first team back to full capacity

The Texas Rangers are on track to become the first team in Major League Baseball or any major U.S.-based sports league to have a full-capacity crowd since the coronavirus pandemic started altering the sports landscape a year ago.

On the same day Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's order took effect allowing businesses in the state to operate at 100% capacity, Rangers CEO Neil Leibman said Wednesday that the team hopes to be at that for the April 5 opener against

the Toronto Blue Jays.

The pandemic could still alter the team's intent to host a capacity crowd at the 40,518-seat Globe Life Field, which the Rangers opened last year without fans in the stands.

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## NOTEBOOK | BASEBALL

## OVC baseball update as conference play nears



ADAM TUMINO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS  
Eastern shortstop Trey Sweeney gets in position to field a ground ball which started a 6-4-3 double play in a game against Bellarmine March 9. Eastern won the game 8-1.

By Adam Tumino  
Editor-in-Chief | @adam\_tumino

The conference season is scheduled to begin March 12 for most of the baseball teams of the OVC.

The conference season was cut short, very short, last season when teams were only able to play three conference games before the season was canceled.

The teams are aiming to play a full season this year and have had varying degrees of success in their slate of non-conference games to open the season.

Eastern has played 13 games, the most in the conference, and hold the best record in the OVC by winning percentage. Also, the Panthers' eight wins are three more than the next-closest team.

They open conference play March 12 against Murray State and then will play a double header the following day.

They have won all four of their series this season, beating Nicholls State, Little Rock, Bellarmine and Kansas State by winning two-of-three games in each series.

Eastern's three-game winning streak is the second-longest in the conference behind Southern Illinois-Edwardsville's four-game streak.

The Cougars are also the only other team in the OVC that is above .500 this season. Their record so far is 5-4.

After a tough start against Illinois State and Wichita State, the Cougars won a single game against Saint Louis and then swept South Dakota State in a three-game set.

Eastern's first opponent, Murray State, is currently riding the longest-losing streak in the conference at four games.

The first three losses of this stretch came against Arkansas, the top-ranked team in the nation. The fourth loss came against Louisville, which is the No. 10 team in the nation.

The top individual position player so far has been Eastern's Trey Sweeney. The redshirt-sophomore shortstop leads the conference in batting average, on-base percentage, slugging percentage, runs scored, hits, RBI, total bases, doubles, triples and home runs.

On the mound, the OVC's best pitcher so far has likely been Southeast Missouri's Dylan Dodd.

The senior lefty leads the conference in innings pitched and strikeouts while ranking third with an ERA of 2.37.

Eastern's top pitcher has been Trevor Nicholson, who ranks fifth in the OVC in ERA, second in strikeouts and fourth in innings pitched. He also has the lowest opposing batting average in the conference this season.

Adam Tumino can be reached at 581-2812 or [ajtumino@eiu.edu](mailto:ajtumino@eiu.edu).

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